

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on April 28, 2006. Claims 18-26, 28, 29, 31, 33 and 34 have been amended and claims 18-34 remain in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments, as well as the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in complete condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Applicant has amended the Abstract as suggested by Examiner and respectfully requests that the objection to the Abstract be withdrawn.

Applicant has amended the Specification as suggested by Examiner and respectfully requests that the objection to the disclosure be withdrawn.

While Applicant respectfully traverses Examiner's rejection of claims 18-34 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness, Applicant has amended claims 18-26, 28, 29, 31, 33 and 34 in a manner to clearly overcome the rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 18-34 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 18-19 and 27-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chiu et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,756,800. While Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, Applicant has amended independent claim 18 to more sharply

define the claimed invention over the prior art of record and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

By way of background, and as recited in amended independent claim 18, Applicant's invention is directed to a mounting plate for indirectly or directly attaching a tester for electronic components on one side of the mounting plate and a handler for electronic components on the other side of the mounting plate. The mounting plate includes at least a single plate on the side of the tester to which the tester is attachable and movable therewith. The mounting plate further comprises a single plate on the side of the handler to which the handler is attachable. The single plates extend in a plane defined by an x- direction and a y- direction and are slidable against each other in the x and/or y and/or in a z direction extending out of the plane defined by the x- and y- direction so as to provide movement of the tester relative to the handler, and the single plates are lockable amongst each other.

In contrast, Chiu et al. is directed to an interface unit that is designed to interface a handler (100) to a tester (310). As shown in Fig. 4 of Chiu et al., the interface unit includes a device interface board (DIB) (106), a DIB stage (218) and an intermediate stage (340) supported on a swing arm (210). The swing arm (210) is mounted to the handler (100) at hinge (212). In this way, the DIB (106) can be changed by first separating the tester (310) from the handler (100), swinging the swing arm (210) to the position shown in Fig. 4, telescoping the DIB (106) along the swing arm (210) so

that it clears the tester (310), changing the DIB (106) and then reversing the steps (see Col. 6, line 60 through Col. 7, line 10).

Applicant respectfully submits that Chiu et al. taken alone, or in combination with the other prior art of record, fails to teach or suggest the combination of elements recited in amended independent claim 18, including a plate attached to a tester so that the plate, and the tester attached thereto, is movable relative to a plate attached to a handler. Rather, in the interface unit of Chiu et al., there is no plate attached to the tester (310) so that a plate and the tester are movable relative to the handler (100) as recited in amended independent claim 18. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent claim 18 be withdrawn.

Moreover, as claims 19-34 depend from allowable independent claim 18, and further as each of these claims recites a combination of elements not taught or suggested by the prior art of record, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable as well.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing response including the amendments and remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and early notice to this affect is earnestly solicited. If there is any issue that remains which may be resolved by telephone conference, Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in order to resolve the same and expedite the allowance of this application.

Applicant does not believe that this response requires that any fees be submitted, however, if any fees are deemed necessary, these may be charged to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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